SUDOKU ALPHA

QUICK **A5234** TRICKY **B5234**

2					1	8	9	
						4		7
					2			
		3	2			5		
	9			8			3	6
		2	4		5			
	5	1			9	3	4	
	7	4			3			
		8		6		9	7	

	5	8			2		7	
	1			3		2	9	4
3			1					
				1				
1	6						3	
				9			6	
	4							3
		6	4		3			2
7					5			

To solve this puzzle each 3x3 box, each row and each column must contain all the numbers 1 to 9. While the rules may be simple, there are numerous strategies to help you solve sudoku. For hints and information visit www.sudoku.org.uk.

Created by Peter Ritmeester (C) PZZL.com

CROSSWORD

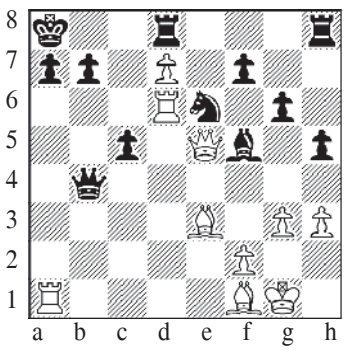
ACROSS

1 Toy (9)
7 Single currency (4)
8 Relating to musical pitch (5)
10 Brazilian city, _ Paulo (3)
11 Take no part in (3,3)
13 Drunkenness (9)
14 Gecko, for example (6)
16 Unwell (3)
18 Lean at an angle (5)
19 Pink (4)
20 Court ants (anag.) (9)

DOWN

1 One expecting the worst (9)
2 Tempting (6)
3 Fluctuate (2-2)
4 Cooker top (3)
5 Rather (7)
6 Golden age (5,4)
8 Sightseer (7)
9 Relating to stars (7)
12 Not moving (2,4)
15 Nought (4)
17 Hostelry (3)

CHESS



WHITE HAS A CRUSHER

HINT: ELIMINATE A DEFENDER.

Solution: 1. Rxe6! If ... Bxe6, 2. Bxc5! (threatens 3. Bxb4 as well as 3. Rxa7 checkmate) [Fressinet-Dorfman, '14].

TARGET

HOW many words of four letters or more can you make from the letters shown here?
In making a word, each letter may be used once only. Each must contain the centre letter and there must be at least one nine-letter word.
No plurals or verb forms ending in "s".

TODAY'S TARGET

Good 12;

Very good 18;

Excellent 24 (or more).

Solution monday.

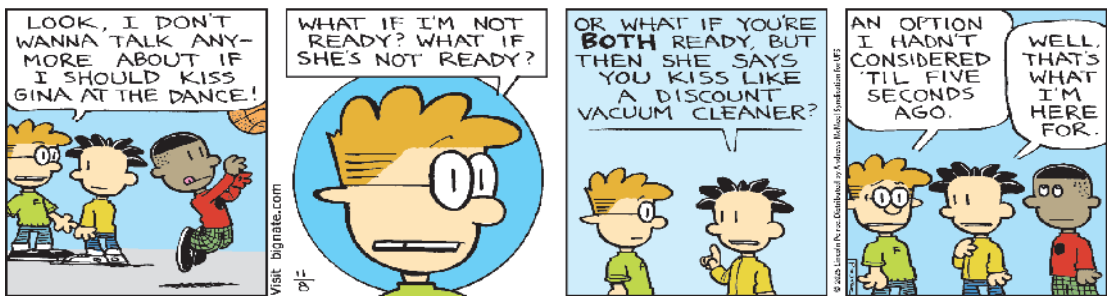
YESTERDAY'S SOLUTIONS

PROMPTING

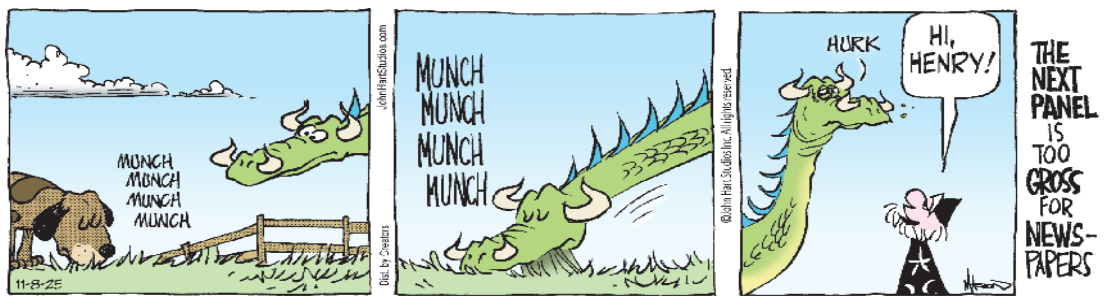
gimp giro girt grim grin grip grit groin grot ingot moping mopping oping opting ping pingo pong poring porting prig PROMPTING prong ring romping roping tigon ting tong toping topping trig trigon

THE METRO FUNNIES

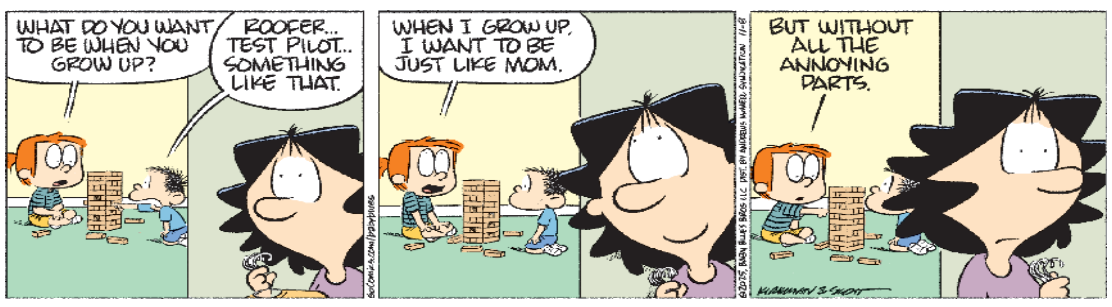
BIG NATE | BY LINCOLN PEIRCE


LOOK, I DON'T WANNA TALK ANY-MORE ABOUT IF I SHOULD KISS GINA AT THE DANCE!
WHAT IF I'M NOT READY? WHAT IF SHE'S NOT READY?
OR WHAT IF YOU'RE BOTH READY, BUT THEN SHE SAYS YOU KISS LIKE A DISCOUNT VACUUM CLEANER?
AN OPTION I HADN'T CONSIDERED 'TIL FIVE SECONDS AGO.
WELL, THAT'S WHAT I'M HERE FOR.
Visit bignate.com

THE WIZARD OF ID | BY BRANT PARKER AND JOHNNY HART



BABY BLUES


WHAT DO YOU WANT TO BE WHEN YOU GROW UP?
ROOFER... TEST PILOT... SOMETHING LIKE THAT.
WHEN I GROW UP, I WANT TO BE JUST LIKE MOM.
BUT WITHOUT ALL THE ANNOYING PARTS.

WEATHER

Sunset & Sunrise

	Hyderabad	Islamabad	Karachi	Lahore	Peshawar	Quetta
Sunset	05:42pm	05:13pm	05:48pm	05:10pm	05:18pm	05:45pm
Sunrise	06:38am	06:30am	06:43am	06:23am	06:37am	06:47am

Three Day Forecast

	Today				Tomorrow				Day After		
	Min	Max	Outlook	Humidity%	Min	Max	Outlook		Min	Max	Outlook
Faisalabad	13	29	Sunny	58	12	28	Sunny		13	28	Sunny
Hyderabad	14	33	Sunny	30	15	32	Sunny		15	32	Sunny
Islamabad	11	26	Sunny	44	11	26	Sunny		10	25	Sunny
Lahore	12	28	Sunny	42	13	28	Sunny		13	27	Sunny
Multan	13	29	Sunny	61	13	29	Sunny		13	28	Sunny
Peshawar	10	26	Sunny	36	11	26	Sunny		11	25	Sunny
Quetta	3	18	Sunny	27	4	18	Sunny		4	18	Sunny

Temperature estimates are internationally sourced and may differ from local estimates.

HELP

EMERGENCIES

Police Help	15, 99212652-53, 99212634
CPLC	1102, 35662222
Fire Brigade	16, 99215007, 99215008.
Bomb Disposal	99212674
KE Complaints	118
Telephone complaints	1218
Railway Inquiry	99213565-66
PCAA Flight Inquiry	99071284, 99071259
	99071265, 114

HOSPITALS

Abbasi Shaheed	99260400-09
Civil Hospital	99215740, 9215960
Jinnah Hospital	99201300-99201301
NICVD	99201271-6
Aga Khan Hospital	34930051
Medicare Hospital	021-111-001-786
Kharadar Gen Hospital	32510113-16
Indus Hospital	35112709
Tabba	36811841, 111844844
Ziauddin Hospital	35862937-9, 36648237-9
Kiran Cancer Hospital	99261601-04
Liaquat National	111-456-456, 34939615
Memon Medical	34691147 — 54
A.O. Clinic	36685564, 3668550-64
Baqai Hospital	36618396, 36618398
Holy Family Hospital	32258994, 32258991
Patel Hospital	111174174
South City Hospital	35374072
Kidney Centre Institute	35661000-10
Karwan-e-Hayat	021-111534111
Usman Memorial	021-36310311-15

AMBULANCE

Edhi	115, 32310066, 32310077
Chhipa	1020
SIEHS/Rescue	1122
St.John	32250500, 32250600
Red Crescent	35306227, 35306228

BLOOD BANK

Fatmid	32225284, 32258656
Husaini	32238405-08
PWA (Civil)	99215740, 99215959

WORD GAME

By Kathleen Saxe

▼ TODAY'S WORD
ESTRONE

(ESTRONE: EH-strone: A natural hormone used to treat estrogen deficiency.)

Average mark 24 words
Time limit 55 minutes

Can you find 45 or more words in ESTRONE?

The list will be published tomorrow.

SOLUTIONS

▼ YESTERDAY'S WORD — MELODEON

meld	lend	demo
melon	leno	demon
mend	lode	dole
mode	loden	dolmen
model	lone	dome
mold	loom	done
mole	loomed	donee
mono	loon	doom
mood	olden	need
mooed	oleo	node
moon	omen	noel
emend	deem	noodle
lemon	dele	

RULES OF THE GAME:

1. Words must be of four or more letters.
2. Words that acquire four letters by the addition of "s," such as "bats" or "dies," are not allowed.
3. Additional words made by adding a "d" or an "s" may not be used. For example, if "bake" is used, "baked" or "bakes" are not allowed, but "bake" and "baking" are admissible.
4. Proper nouns, slang words, or vulgar or sexually explicit words are not allowed.

YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS

ACROSS

1 Policeman
7 Tangle
9 Rewards
10 True
12 Cup
13 Altered
14 Egg
15 Echo
17 Entered
19 Series
20 Describes.

DOWN

1 Partners
2 Over
3 Low
4 Carpenter
5 Endure
6 Aloud
8 Explodes
11 Ethnic
13 Agree
16 Here
18 Rob.

METRO EVENTS

PLAY

Searching for the Pierrot, a fantastical mystery play directed & performed by Gillian Rhodes, is staged as part of the World Culture Festival, at Auditorium 1, Arts Council of Pakistan, at 7pm.

BOOK LAUNCH

Story Circle, a book by Taha Kehar and Fatima Ijaz, is launched at City Talks, Habitt City, Tipu Sultan Road, at 7pm.

ART FESTIVAL

'Grand Arts Festival 2025' is underway at Port Grand & Art Lane Gallery at 6pm.

FILM

As part of the World Culture Festival, *Love Guru* is screened at Auditorium 2, Arts Council of Pakistan, at 4pm.

WORKSHOP

A dance workshop by Cayena Colfolk from Colombia, is held as part of the World Culture Festival, at Studio 2, Arts Council of Pakistan, at 2pm.

HOROSCOPE

By Georgia Nicols

ARIES | March 21-April 19

*** Invite family and friends over for good food and drink. You'll enjoy having a chance to make everyone feel happier. It's rewarding to give someone else a lift in their day. Actually, others are willing to help you today in both practical and financial ways. Tonight: Cocoon.

TAURUS | April 20-May 20

**** This is a pleasant day! Because your ability to appreciate the beauty of your daily surroundings is heightened, you'll enjoy a short drive anywhere or a long walk. Discussions with others, especially neighbors, relatives and siblings, will be warm and friendly. Tonight: Fun conversations.

GEMINI | May 21-June 20

*** Financial discussions plus wheeling and dealing will go well for you today, which is hardly surprising since you are the wordsmith of the zodiac. Explore work-related discussions that can boost your earnings. You might also want to make a big purchase. Tonight: Maintain your belongings.

CANCER | June 21-July 22

**** Oh happy day! Today the Moon in your sign is dancing with fair Venus creating pleasant feelings between you and everyone else. Enjoy being with friends. Get out and have a good time. Good food and drink plus a chance to relax will please you. (You might feel protective about a loved one.) Tonight: You win!

LEO | July 23-Aug. 22

*** This is a feel-good day, and you have a warm feeling in your tummy. You might enjoy entertaining people at your home. You're an excellent host. You also might enjoy your own company in a quiet, pleasant way. A third choice could be competitive sports. Your call. Tonight: Enjoy privacy.

VIRGO | Aug. 23-Sept. 22

**** Because you have excellent relations with friends and groups today, possibly someone will help you to do home repairs or restore order where you live. (It's a longshot.) Or perhaps your involvement with a group, especially a charitable group, will be personally rewarding. Tonight: Be friendly.

LIBRA | Sept. 23-Oct. 22

*** People notice you today. In fact, some people will know personal details about your private life. Fortunately, the heavens are smiling on you and your reputation looks good! You're also convincing and persuasive today. You're in the groove! Tonight: You're admired!

SCORPIO | Oct. 23-Nov. 21

**** This is a wonderful day to shop for wardrobe goodies for yourself. You will like what you see in the mirror. It's also a great day to travel or make travel plans for the future. Your ability to schmooze with others is tops. Enjoy talking to people from different backgrounds. Tonight: Explore!

SAGITTARIUS | Nov. 22-Dec. 21

*** Physical exercise or doing something outdoors will appeal to you today. With Mars in your sign it's important to have an outlet for any energy that might be building up within you. Fortunately, you love the outdoors. Ideas? Tonight: Check your finances.

CAPRICORN | Dec. 22-Jan. 19

**** Discussions with close friends, partners and spouses will be warm and mutually supportive today. This is also a good day to interact with groups and organizations because your skill at dealing with members of the general public is tops. You like to do good work. Tonight: Listen and cooperate.

AQUARIUS | Jan. 20-Feb. 18

*** You make a great impression on everyone today, which is why some of you might strike up a flirtation or a new romance with a boss or someone in a position of authority. Very likely, someone will ask for your advice about how to make something look better. (You can wing it.) Tonight: Get organized.

PISCES | Feb. 19-Mar. 20

**** Travel or doing anything that will give you a change of scenery will be gratifying for you today. If you can't travel somewhere, then be a tourist in your own city. Learn something new. Romance with someone who is "different" will be exciting. Tonight: Play!

The stars show the kind of day you'll have: 5-Dynamic; 4-Positive; 3-Average; 2-so-so; 1-Difficult

CONTRACT BRIDGE

Bidding Quiz

By Steve Becker

Extraordinary foresight

East dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ 5 4 3
♥ Q 4 2
♦ K J 4 3
♣ K J 9

WEST
♠ Q 10 6 2
♥ J 8
♦ A 9 8 6
♣ 5 4 3

EAST
♠ A K J 8 7
♥ 10 9 7 3
♦ Q 10 5
♣ 7

SOUTH
♠ 9
♥ A K 6 5
♦ 7 2
♣ A Q 10 8 6 2

The bidding:

East	South	West	North
Pass	1 ♣	Pass	1 ♦
1 ♠	2 ♣	2 ♠	3 ♣
Pass	3 ♥	Pass	4 ♣
Pass	5 ♣		

Opening lead -- two of spades.

Assume you get to five clubs and West leads a spade. East takes his king and continues with the ace, which you ruff. How would you proceed?

The best approach is to lead a diamond right away. When you do, West follows low, and you must then decide whether to play the jack or king from dummy. This is not really a difficult decision. You play the king on the basis that East presumably would not have passed originally had he held the ace of diamonds and five or six spades headed by at least the A-K.

After the king wins, your only remaining concern is the possibility of losing a heart trick. This will not prove to be a problem if the missing hearts are divided 3-3, or if the adverse trumps are 2-2, in which case you can ruff your fourth heart in dummy.

As a good technician, however, you should also try to cover the possibility that the trumps are not divided 2-2 and the hearts are not divided 3-3. It is only after thinking along these lines that you realize the best method of play is a dummy reversal.

You therefore ruff dummy's last spade at trick four and exit with a diamond. East wins with the ten and, let's say, returns a heart. You win with dummy's queen, ruff the four of diamonds with the ace of trump, lead a low trump to dummy's nine and ruff the jack of diamonds with the queen of trump.

You now lead your last trump, the ten, to dummy's king and play the jack of trump, on which you discard the six of hearts. You then take the last two tricks with the A-K of hearts to make the contract. Your 11 tricks consist of seven trumps (rather than the obvious six), a diamond and the Q-K-A of hearts.

Tomorrow: To finesse or not to finesse.

YESTERDAY'S SUDOKU SOLUTIONS

Quick — A5233

9	1	5	8	2	3	7	6	4
3	7	8	1	6	4	5	2	9
4	6	2	7	9	5	8	3	1
1	5	6	9	3	7	2	4	8
2	9	7	4	5	8	6	1	3
8	3	4	6	1	2	9	7	5
5	4	3	2	8	6	1	9	7
7	2	9	5	4	1	3	8	6
6	8	1	3	7	9	4	5	2

Tricky — B5233

2	5	6	3	7	8	9	1	4
3	8	4	9	1	5	7	2	6
1	7	9	6	2	4	5	3	8
6	4	2	7	5	3	1	8	9
7	1	3	8	4	9	6	5	2
8	9	5	1	6	2	3	4	7
4	6	8	5	9	1	2	7	3
5	3	7	2	8	6	4	9	1
9	2	1	4	3	7	8	6	5